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*NEWS RELEASE*

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*Department of General Services*

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**DGS Director Responds to BSA Investigation**

SACRAMENTO, Calif – Today, Department of General Services Director Will Bush released the statement below in response to the Bureau of State Audits (BSA) review of leased space in San Diego:

"This is not the kind of efficiency in state government that everyone has a right to expect.

"I am committed to improving our leasing program so that this never occurs again.

"I have directed our internal auditor to independently review the DGS leasing portfolio, our processes and procedures for inefficiencies and to recommend improvements to our systems to prevent taxpayer money from being wasted.

"In addition, over the past few years DGS has taken a number of tangible steps to improve our leasing process:

- Hired 15 new space planners to reduce leasing workload backlog.
- Converted the older manual paper process for tracking leasing activities to an online system.
- Implemented a single intake office for all statewide real estate move and change requests.
- Developed clear policies and procedures for disagreements with landlords including specific time periods for dispute escalation to management.
- Expanded the authority for the director of DGS to direct state agencies to use state-owned space, under Government Code Section 14682, a result of SB 245 (2005).

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